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SMI-01 AF-08 ARA-06 NEA-10 OIC-02 JUS-01 ACDA-07

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:TGEN, UNESCO, AORG, OCON, US, AS

SUBJECT:INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (IOC)

1. IOC IS SEMIAUTONOMOUS BODY FOUNDED BY UNESCO TO COORDINATE AND FOSTER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN MARINE SCIENCE AND RELATED SERVICES. IT HAS INDEPENDENT MEMBERSHIP OF 86 NATIONS AND IS ONLY GOVERNMENTAL BODY TO DEAL WITH MARINE SCIENCE ON WORLDWIDE BASIS. AFTER FUNCTIONING PRIMARILY AS A TECHNICAL BODY FOR FIRST 12 YEARS OF ITS EXISTENCE, IOC HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY POLITICIZED IN RECENT YEARS.

2. THERE WERE ALWAYS POLITICAL ELEMENTS PRESENT IN VARYING DEGREES, AND THEY WERE SLOWLY RISING, BUT IT WAS NOT UNTIL GROUP OF 77 MANIFESTED ITSELF FOR FIRST TIME IN IOC DURING 8TH ASSEMBLY IN 1973 THAT PROBLEM BECAME ACUTE. 77 MADE STRONG EFFORT TO GAIN MAJORITY CONTROL OF IOC OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (EC) BUT FAILED. FAILURE WAS DUE PARTICULARLY TO POOR ORGANIZATION BY 77 AND CLOSE COOPERATION BY EUROPEANS, BOTH EAST AND WEST, AND US, CANADA AND JAPAN, AND BECAUSE OF REALIZATION BY SCIENTISTS ON SOME LDC DELEGATIONS THAT ACTIVE IOC LEADERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION IN EC REQUIRED OF DCs WHO HAVE VIRTUALLY TOTAL WORLD CAPABILITY IN OCEANOGRAPHY. LAW OF SEA ALSO RECEIVED CLOSE AND SOME-

TIMES STRIDENT ATTENTION DURING 8TH ASSEMBLY.

3. THESE ITEMS AGAIN PLAYED MAJOR ROLE IN 9TH ASSEMBLY IN NOVEMBER 1975. GROUP OF 77 DID SOMEWHAT BETTER IN ELECTION AND EC IS NOW FAIRLY EVENLY DIVIDED BETWEEN LDC'S AND DC'S. ADDITIONAL POLITICAL ITEMS RECEIVING MAJOR ATTENTION WAS PROPOSAL TO ADD ARABIC AS A FIFTH WORKING LANGUAGE AND PROPOSAL TO EXPEL SOUTH AFRICA FROM IOC. AS PARLIAMENTARY MOVE LAST ITEM WAS ATTACHED TO AGENDA ITEM REFERRING TO DATE AND PLACE OF 10TH ASSEMBLY. WITHOUT GOING INTO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DETAIL, SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT THE DEBATE AND PARLIAMENTARY MOVES WERE BITTER BUT A DECISION WAS NOT TAKEN ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN QUESTION BECAUSE THE CHAIRMAN GAVELED THE MEETING TO A CLOSE AS THE DEBATE RAN BEYOND THE ALLOCATED TIME FOR THE INTERPRETERS. THIS ALSO MEANT OF COURSE THAT NO DECISION WAS TAKEN ON THE DATE AND PLACE OF THE 10TH ASSEMBLY.

4. USG WISHES TO ELIMINATE SUCH POLITICAL MATTERS FROM IOC TO ENABLE IT TO CONCENTRATE ON ITS INCREASING WORK LOAD CONCERNING MARINE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. SINCE POLITICAL DEVISIVENESS IS STRONGEST AT BIENNIAL ASSEMBLIES, WE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING WAYS IN WHICH THIS ELEMENT MIGHT BE ELIMINATED OR AT LEAST SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED. ONE THOUGHT WHICH HAS OCCURRED TO US IS THAT REMOVAL OF THE ASSEMBLY FROM PARIS MIGHT HAVE THIS RESULT SINCE THE POLITICAL ELEMENT IS MANIFEST IN VERY LARGE PART BY UNESCO PERMANENT DELEGATIONS. SINCE ASSEMBLY HAS NEVER BEEN HELD AWAY FROM UNESCO HOUSE, HOWEVER, IT IS NECESSARY THAT SOME PLAUSIBLE REASON BE PROFFERED FOR HAVING IT IN ANOTHER LOCALE, AND OF COURSE IT IS NECESSARY THAT A HOST GOVERNMENT ISSUE AN INVITATION. SINCE U.S. IS LEADING MARINE SCIENCE BACKER AND U.S. DEL HAS BEEN CAUGHT UP IN POLITICAL DEBATES (OFTEN AGAINST ITS WILL) WE DO NOT CONSIDER AN INVITATION FROM U.S. WOULD ACCOMPLISH DESIRED END. FORTUNATELY, FACT THAT UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE THIS YEAR IS MEETING IN NAIROBI FOR FIRST TIME AWAY FROM PARIS MAY OBTAIN GENERAL ADVERSE REACTIONS TO SEEKING ANOTHER LOCALE. HOWEVER, WE STILL NEED TO FIND ONE.

5. A THOUGHT WHICH HAS OCCURRED TO US IS THAT A LOGICAL INVITATION MIGHT BE PROFFERED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE OUTGOING IOC PRESIDENT, DR. GEORGE HUMPHREY OF AUSTRALIA. SUCH A LOCATION MIGHT MINIMIZE PARTICIPATION BY POLITICAL DELEGATIONS. FURTHERMORE, SECOND GOVERNING BODY OF IOC, THE EC, WHILE IT HAS MET FREQUENTLY OUTSIDE OF PARIS, HAS NEVER MET AWAY FROM NORTH ATLANTIC REGION. THUS, THERE SHOULD BE SOME ATTRACTION IN IDEA OF HAVING MAJOR MEETING

IN SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE AND IN PACIFIC REGION.(IOC-EC 8 IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO MEET IN GOA, INDIA IN EARLY 1977.) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALTHOUGH THERE COULD BE SUBSTANTIAL COST TO AUSTRALIA IN HOSTING SUCH A MEETING (RECENT ASSEMBLIES HAVE RUN TO ABOUT 400 PARTICIPANTS), THE IDEA MIGHT BE ATTRACTIVE TO THEM SINCE THEY INDICATED THEY WILLING TO GIVE STRONGEST SUPPORT TO IOC DURING 1973 CAMPAIGN FOR DR. HUMPHREY'S ELECTION OVER PROF. ROLL OF FRG AND ADM AMARAL AFFONSO OF BRAZIL. (US FINALLY SUPPORTED HUMPHREY WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR HE HAD BEST CHANCE OF BEATING 77 CANDIDATE. US HAD CONSIDERED BOTH ROLL AND HUMPHREY AS VERY WELL QUALIFIED.)

6. BEFORE DECIDING MAKE SUGGESTION TO GOA, DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS IT ADVISABLE TO SEEK REACTION OF SEVERAL FRIENDLIES, AND TO ASCERTAIN THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ALSO APPROACH GOA. IN DOING SO OF COURSE WE ARE OPEN TO ANY ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTIONS FOR ELIMINATING OR REDUCING THE POLITICAL

ELEMENT IN IOC. IN DOING SO, WE WISH CONSIDER THIS ONLY IN TERMS OF DEPOLITICIZING IOC, NOT DEBATE ANY PARTICULAR POLITICAL QUESTION.

7. FOR LONDON, OSLO AND TOKYO: PLEASE EXPLORE PER PARA 6 WITH UK, NORWEGIAN, AND JAPANESE REPS TO IOC AS WELL AS FONOFF. UK REP IS DR. PETER TWINN OF NERC. NORWEGIAN VICE CHAIRMAN OF IOC IS DR. OLE OSTVEDT OF DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES IN BERGEN. JAPANESE REP IS DR. NORIYUKI NASU OF UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO.

8. FOR OTTAWA: MATTER BEING DISCUSSED DIRECTLY WITH DR. NEIL CAMPBELL OF ENVIRONMENT SO NO ACTION REQUIRED NOW.

9. FOR BONN AND PARIS: MR. DAVID H. WALLACE, (NOAA), US REP TO IOC, HOPES TO TAKE UP MATTER INFORMALLY AT LOS CONFERENCE AT UN WITH FRENCH REP M. A. MARTIN-SANE OF QUAI D'ORSAY AND FRG REP DR. STEFFEN VON WELCK OF MINISTRY FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY SO NO ACTION REQUIRED NOW.

10. FOR CANBERRA: REQUEST EMBASSY COMMENTS.

11. FOR MALTA: NO ACTION REQUIRED NOW. IF WE DECIDE TO GO AHEAD WITH GOA WE MAY ALSO WISH TO TAKE UP MATTER INFORMALLY WITH AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER IAN NICHOLSON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHO WAS AUSTRALIAN SPOKESMAN AT IOC IX.

12. FOR MOSCOW WE MAY WANT TO TAKE UP MATTER WITH SOVIETS LATER. REQUEST COMMENTS.

13. MATTER HAS BEEN COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT SENEGALESE DG OF UNESCO HAS RAISED WITH IOC SECRETARY FACT THAT NO DECISION WAS TAKEN AT IOC IX ON DATE AND PLACE FOR IOC X. BY PURE COINCIDENCE IT WAS SENEGALESE PERMDEL TO UNESCO WHO LED MOVE TO EXPEL SOUTH AFRICA AT IOC IX; UNESCO LEGAL ADVISER HAS RULED THAT SINCE IOC RULES REQUIRED SUCH DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY ASSEMBLY, TIME AND PLACE FOR IOC X CAN ONLY BE DECIDED BY EXTRAORDINARY ASSEMBLY. HE APPEARS TO OVERLOOK FACT THAT UNDER IOC RULES EXTRAORDINARY ASSEMBLY CAN ONLY BE CALLED BY DECISION OF EC OR BY REQUEST OF 1/3 OF MEMBERSHIP. IOC SECRETARY HOPES AVOID EXTRAORDINARY ASSEMBLY BY CIRCULATING PROPOSAL THAT IOC X BE HELD AT USUAL TIME AND PLACE IN UNESCO HOUSE. HOWEVER, FEELING IN UNESCO IS THAT EVEN ONE OBJECTION TO THIS PROCEDURE WILL REQUIRE CALLING EXTRAORDINARY ASSEMBLY. OUR SUSPICION ON THIS IS THAT SENEGALESE PERMDEL WISHES CONVENE EXTRAORDINARY ASSEMBLY TO PURSUE SOUTH AFRICA QUESTION. IOC SECRETARY HAS

PRIVATELY AGREED IN TELECON WITH DEPTOFF NOT TO TAKE ANY
ACTION AT LEAST UNTIL WE HAVE CHANCE CONSULT WITH HIM
DURING VISIT TO WASHINGTON MAY 10-11.

14. WE HAD HOPED CONSULTATIONS ON ABOVE SUGGESTION TO
HOLD ASSEMBLY OUTSIDE PARIS COULD BE INITIATED AT EC 7 IN
BERGEN, NORWAY IN LATE JUNE. BUT DEVELOPMENT OUTLINED
IN PARA. 13 GIVES GREATER URGENCY AND ACTION REQUIRED NOW.
IF WE ARE TO PROFFER SUGGESTION TO GOA WE BELIEVE IT
SHOULD BE DONE BY MID-MAY IN HOPES THAT IF IT IS
ACCEPTED BY GOA PROPOSAL FOR AUSTRALIAN SITE ONLY COULD BE
CIRCULATED BY IOC SECRETARIAT. ACCORDINGLY, PROMPT
RESPONSE WOULD BE APPRECIATED. SISCO

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